APR 27 2007

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians

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#### BEFORE THE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. VN-2003-2220

13 JEA NAVARRO

aka JEA DEONIO NAVARRO, aka JEA ORTIZLUIS NAVARRO, aka JEA DIONIO ORTIZ LUIS NAVARRO

782 Catalina Circle 15 Vallejo, California 94589

Vocational Nurse License No. VN 184820

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Respondent.

ACCUSATION

Teresa Bello-Jones, J.D., M.S.N., R.N. ("Complainant") alleges:

#### **PARTIES**

- Complainant brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the 1.
- Executive Officer of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians ("Board"), 22
- Department of Consumer Affairs. 23
- On or about June 5, 1998, the Board issued Vocational Nurse License 2. 24
- Number VN 184820, to Jea Navarro, also known as Jea Deonio Navarro, Jea Ortizluis Navarro, 25
- and Jea Dionio Ortiz Luis Navarro ("Respondent"). The license expired on August 31, 2003, and 26
- was renewed on July 20, 2004. The license will expire on August 31, 2007, unless renewed. 27

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## STATUTORY PROVISIONS 1 Business and Professions Code ("Code") section 2875 provides, in 2 3. pertinent part, that the Board may discipline the holder of a vocational nurse license for any 3 reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with Code section 2875) of the Vocational Nursing 4 Practice Act. 5 Code section 118(b) provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a 4. 6 license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the 7 period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated. Under Code 8 section 2892.1, the Board may renew an expired license at any time within four years after the expiration. 10 Code section 2878 states, in pertinent part: 5. 11 "The Board may suspend or revoke a license issued under this chapter [the 12 Vocational Nursing Practice Act (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 2840, et seq.)] for any of the following: 13 (a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but not limited to, the following: 14 15 (4) The use of excessive force upon or the mistreatment or abuse of any patient. 16 17 (d) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or 18 abetting the violating of, or conspiring to violate any provision or term of this chapter. 19 20 (f) Conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and 21 duties of a licensed vocational nurse, in which event the record of the conviction shall be 22 conclusive evidence of the conviction. 23 24 (h) Impersonating another practitioner, misrepresenting professional credentials 25 or licensure status, or permitting another person to use his or her certificate or license.

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(i) The commission of any act involving dishonesty, when that action is related to

the duties and functions of the licensee."

6. Section 2885 of the Code provides:

"It is unlawful for any person or persons not licensed as provided in this chapter to impersonate in any manner or pretend to be a licensed vocational nurse, or to use the title "Licensed Vocational Nurse," the letters "L.V.N.," or any other name, word or symbol in connection with or following his name so as to lead another or others to believe that he is a licensed vocational nurse."

#### COST RECOVERY

7. Code section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Evergreen Healthcare Centers of Vallejo, ("Evergreen"), a skilled nursing facility located at 1527 Springs Road, Vallejo, California, Respondent was assigned to care for Patient RR. On or about January 11, 2004, Respondent noted in the medical chart that RR was complaining of kidney pain. Respondent contacted a physician, who ordered a urinalysis. On or about January 12, 2004, the urinalysis revealed that RR had a urinary tract infection, and RR was prescribed an antibiotic. Between January 11, 2004, and January 16, 2004, RR's condition deteriorated, including his ability to communicate his hydration needs and tolerance of oral foods and fluids. On or about January 16, 2004, at 1300 hours, Respondent noted in the medical chart that she did not administer the prescribed antibiotic to RR due to his "sleepy state." Respondent failed to notify a physician that she withheld the prescribed medication, or of the significant change in RR's condition, including decreased fluid intake, decreased sensorium, declining mental function, and the need for a medical reassessment.

<sup>1.</sup> The identity of Patient RR is withheld in order to protect patient privacy.

9. On that same day, January 16, 2004, nurse "M" was assigned to care for RR. At 2240 hours, M noted that RR was unresponsive to verbal cues, and his urine output was less than 150 cc's for the entire day. M immediately contacted a physician regarding RR's condition, who ordered that RR be transported to the hospital. When RR arrived at the hospital, he was diagnosed as having hypotension, hypothermia, hyperkalemia (high serum potassium level), and extremely severe dehydration. On January 18, 2004, at 0450 hours, RR expired.

## FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

### (Conviction of a Crime)

- 10. Respondent is subject to discipline under Code section 2878(f), in that she was convicted of a crime that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a vocational nurse. On or about June 17, 2005, in the case of *People v. Jea Navarro*, (Superior Ct. Solano County, 2005, No. VCR178484), Respondent was convicted by the Court on her plea of nolo contendere of violating Penal Code section 368(c) (elder and dependent adult abuse). The circumstances of the crime are as follows:
- a. Between January 15, 2004, and January 16, 2004, Respondent, under circumstances and conditions other than those likely to produce great bodily harm and death, and having the care of custody of RR, with knowledge that he was an elder and dependent adult, did willfully cause and permit him to be placed in a situation in which is health may be endangered.

# SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Excessive Force, Mistreatment or Abuse of Any Patient)

11. Respondent is subject to discipline under Code section 2878(a)(4), in that on or about January 16, 2004, while employed as a licensed vocational nurse at Evergreen, Respondent mistreated or abused patient RR, as more particularly set forth above in paragraphs 7 through 9a.

# THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Impersonating a Licensee)

12. Respondent is subject to discipline under Code sections 2878(d), 2878(h), 2878(j) and 2885, in that between August 31, 2003, and July 20, 2004, while employed as a

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1	vocational nurse at Evergreen, Respondent acted as a Licensed Vocational nurse while her
2	license was expired.
3	PRAYER
4	WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters
5	herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric
6	Technicians issue a decision:
7	1. Revoking or suspending Vocational Nurse License Number VN 184820,
8	issued to Jea Navarro, also known as Jea Deonio Navarro, Jea Ortizluis Navarro, and Jea Dionic
9	Ortiz Luis Navarro;
10	2. Ordering Jea Navarro, also known as Jea Deonio Navarro, Jea Ortizluis
11	Navarro, and Jea Dionio Ortiz Luis Navarro, to pay the Board of Vocational Nursing and
12	Psychiatric Technicians the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case,
13	pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and,
14	3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
15	DATED: April 27, 2007
16	man Wands
17	TERESA BELLO-JONES, J.D., M.S.N., R.N. Executive Officer
18	Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians Department of Consumer Affairs
19	State of California Complainant
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